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The Highlander

Thursday Sept 4 2025 | Issue 705

INSIDE: KINMOUNT FAIR IN PHOTOS PAGE 14 FREE

John Levie, vice president of engineering at Clearford Water Solutions, has been overseeing Dysart's sewage treatment plant since 2004. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Residents question sewage expansion

By Mike Baker

Residents on Lake Kashagawigamog are raising the alarm over Dysart et al's proposed sewage treatment plant expansion, believing it could impact water quality throughout the lake chain. The facility's lead engineer, however, says he has no concerns, noting it's one of the top-performing, environmentally-sound plants in the province.

John Puffer, a member of the Lake Kashagawigamog Organization (LKO), has been on the lake for close to 70 years. His grandmother purchased what is now known as Puffer Island in 1918, with his family maintaining a presence there ever since.

In a recent interview with *The Highlander*, he recalled how, as a young adult, he could swim and fish for lake trout almost anywhere on the lake. That's not the case anymore – he said the lake's makeup has drastically changed over the past 50 years, with a steady decline in water quality.

When the township proposed its initial expansion to the plant, located off County Road 21 between Head and Grass lakes, in 1995, he was one of 150 people to attend a meeting at the Wigamog Inn – it was there the LKO was formed.

"We were concerned about the impacts on the lake then and are even more so now,

Continued **'Dysart'** on page 2

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Highlander news

Dysart pursuing a 50 per cent expansion

Continued from page 1

given the negative changes we've seen in the 30 years since," Puffer said, noting what used to be "sandy bottoms" on the lakebed has made way for murkier silt. Algae-related scares are a common feature of summer now, Puffer added.

The group is mobilizing again with the township pursuing a 50 per cent expansion to its treatment facility.

John Levie, vice president of engineering at Clearford Water Solutions, which operates the plant on behalf of Dysart, said an application to increase the amount of treated water put back into the lake chain, from 1,575 cubic metres per day to 2,375, will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) in September.

The project is estimated to cost $12-15 million and would allow the township to add about 810 new connections to its sewage system. Levie said the proposal mirrors a phase-two expansion the Ontario government approved in the 90s.

On paper, the facility is operating at capacity, meaning the township can't approve any further in-town development until it's expanded. In reality, he said water flows are about 73-75 per cent of what the plant is designed to manage, typically seeing between 1,000 and 1,200 cubic metres on an average day.

When it comes in, the liquid is a light-brown colour, like that of chocolate milk. It goes through a five-step treatment system, where large solids and floatables such as wipes and toilet paper and miniscule nutrients like carbon, nitrogen and phosphorous are removed. The treated water is then flowed back into the lake.

Water quality a concern

Lance Payne, an LKO member and chair of the group's water quality and development committee, said a recent survey of LKO members showed 95 per cent are concerned about water quality on the lake.

"We know this expansion is to facilitate a new residential development off County Road 21, near to Grass Lake, which feeds into Lake Kash. With the number of units being talked about (at least 100), it will be high-density and so we feel it's going to put even more stress on our struggling lake," Payne said.

Members of the Lake Kashagawigamog Organization have voiced their concern over the proposed expansion of Dysart's sewage treatment facility. *Submitted.*

He stressed the lake association isn't opposing the expansion but wants to ensure the township considers all possible side-effects and alternatives before committing.

Puffer said he hasn't seen any studies over the past 30 years that can definitively say whether the plant's original expansion has had a negative impact on the lake, but he does have water analysis from U-Links that shows the lake chain contains "concerning" levels of phosphorous and ammonia.

During last year's monitoring, U-Links found three spots on Lake Kash where concentrated ammonia levels exceeded limits set out by MECP. Last fall, researchers recorded ammonia levels of 0.0232 milligrams per litre, 0.022 mg/l, and 0.0263 mg/l – all higher than the 0.019 mg/l limit. On Head Lake, phosphorous levels reached 0.01225 mg/l in the spring and 0.01095 mg/l in the fall. These were both higher than the 0.01 mg/l limit.

Ammonia is toxic to fish and other aquatic life and can cause excessive algae and plant growth. Phosphorous is a growth tank for algae and aquatic plants in the water.

Levie said he doubts those levels have anything to do with the plant, saying it "runs beautifully… this place has got the most stringent nutrient limits in the area, we never see any problems.

"There are two reasons this plant is working so well – one, it was designed very well initially and the process is easy for operators to manage and maintain. The other is the type of properties – it's mostly residential here. A lot of municipalities have a large commercial and industrial flow, which is typically harsher or [generates] more volume."

He said the treatment process removes 98 per cent of the carbon, 98-99 per cent of the nitrogen/ammonia, and 97-98 per cent of the phosphorous that comes in.

Staff test the water weekly, with Levie saying he hasn't seen any major issues in his 21 years at the site. Per the MECP, the Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) for nitrogen/ammonia is 5.0 mg/l, with phosphorous at 0.2 mg/l.

Looking at annual data stretching back to 2021, Levie said the highest level of nitrogen/ammonia was recorded from January to August of 2024, at 0.06 mg/l, and the highest level of phosphorous in 2022 at 0.05 mg/l. This was the equivalent of 1/1,400,000th tablespoons per cup, the engineer said.

Levie said he was recently speaking with a colleague who said ash from forest fires being deposited into lakes is likely a big contributor to declining water quality. So too runoff from properties with mowed lawns, aging/failing septic systems and salt/other contaminants used for road maintenance.

"Then there's the increased boat traffic and added development around the lakes, which are also much more likely [to impact water quality]," Levie said.

Next steps

After reading into membrane bioreactor technology, which uses micro or ultra filtration, similar to reverse osmosis, to separate solid and liquid waste, Puffer feels the township should investigate that – even if it comes with a hefty price tag.

Levie said that sort of build would add another $10 million to the project without bringing any substantial benefits.

"The way I look at it is at my house, I can add insulation to improve my energy efficiency. I can spend thousands without getting any noticeable return. These aren't my tax dollars, I make a recommendation based on sound engineering principles, but if it was my money I wouldn't spend it there. It'd be like buying spinner rims on a Corvette for winter driving – doesn't make sense and there are no major performance benefits.

"You'd be better off investing that money to address other issues contributing to decreased water quality," he said.

Levie said he expects a response from the ministry on the pre-consultation application in the first quarter of 2026. If approved, the project will move into detailed engineering for the mechanical and structural expansion, which will take about a year. From there, an application can be submitted to amend the environmental approval for the plant, which is a 12-14 month process. Once that's back, the project can go to tender for construction.

Levie said he wants to conduct a "stress test" of the system – holding back sewage and feeding at a fixed rate to see how it reacts to increased loading - before submitting a final application, believing there's potential to land an additional 10-15 per cent in capacity.

That could be important down the road, with Levie stating there will be no more physical room to expand at the current site.

"That would buy the township more time before it has to start looking at additional land and additional treatment options," he said.

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The intersection of County Roads 14 and 6 will soon be an all-way stop. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

New all-way stop for problematic intersection

By Lisa Gervais

Following a June 24 accident at County Road 14 and County Road 6 in Eagle Lake, Dzintra Zarins called for an all-way stop at Eagle Lake's main intersection.

She witnessed the aftermath of the collision between an SUV and pick-up truck that morning, which totaled both vehicles and sent a number of people to hospital.

Zarins said she had been living near the "problematic" intersection for 11 years. She added her neighbours had been there 20, and witnessed at least six accidents, but said their requests for action had been pushed aside.

"I'm so sick of this intersection," Zarins said. "Everybody keeps bypassing it. We've been here almost 11 years and we've clocked 110km coming down through a 50km zone…like insane…and this could have been seriously fatal as well."

She called on officials to "at least make it a four-way stop. (It has been a two-way stop). What would that cost? This is just stupid. I've watched kids jump guardrails because yoyos are doing 110km and drinking."

She added the intersection puts kids and elderly at risk as it is right near a busy general store and just down the road from a public beach.

On Aug. 27, residents of Eagle Like got the action they had been asking for as County councillors voted in favor of creating a new all-way stop at the intersection.

Director of public works, Sylvin Cloutier, tabled a report calling for the all-way stop at Haliburton Lake Road and Eagle Lake Road "due to safety concerns related to restricted sightlines and an increase in collision occurrences."

He said it would improve driver awareness, and enhance safety by reducing confusion and potential collisions.

There have been stop signs only on County Road 6, with County Road 14 uncontrolled.

Cloutier said drivers on County Road 6 have limited sightlines, especially when attempting to cross or enter County Road 14 from a stopped position because of a rock cut, curve, and a residential building. The intersection does not conform with the Ontario Traffic Manual.

Cloutier added, "there have been recent right-angle and turning collisions at this intersection. These crashes are consistent with sight-distance related issues at two-way stop intersections. With increasing local traffic volumes due to residential and business activity in the area, the risk of additional incidents may increase if no action is taken."

The change will see installing two new stop signs on County Road 14 in both directions, retaining the existing two on County Road 6, installing all-way tabs beneath all four stop signs and installing an advisory stop head with 'new' tab signs on Country Road 14.

The price tag is $1,200, covered under the public works department budget.

Cloutier said staff would place 'new traffic pattern ahead' warning signs to inform drivers of the change, notify emergency services, residents and road maintenance crews, and put notices on social media and the County's website.

Coun. Walt McKechnie thanked staff and council for the action.

"Needless to say, I live around that area and say thanks on behalf of all my constituents, and tourists. I frequent that area quite often and it is a very dangerous area. I think this is a great thing for our community."

Highlander news

Residents help clean up after the ice storm of 2025. *File.*

County calculates cost of ice storm

By Lisa Gervais

The County of Haliburton has estimated it spent $354,096 as a result of the spring ice storm and will be seeking 75 per cent of that from the province of Ontario.

In a report to an Aug. 27 County council meeting, CAO Gary Dyke said costs included staff wages, materials and contracted services – all unbudgeted.

"The County incurred significant unbudgeted costs during our response and clean-up efforts during the state of emergency," he said.

The March 30 ice storm saw between 35-40 mm of freezing rain fall on the southern portion of Haliburton County during the third largest ice storm event in Ontario history. It caused heavy damage and fallen trees, resulting in widespread power outages, blocked roadways, and disrupted communication networks.

In response, a state of emergency was declared on March 31 by both the County of Haliburton and the Township of Minden Hills, mobilizing local resources and coordinating with provincial agencies to address the immediate needs of residents and critical infrastructure. The state of emergency ended on May 6.

Dyke said about 18,000 out of 25,000 people were without power for three to 14 days; about 300 hydro poles were destroyed and needed replacement; there was lost Bell service for two to three days, including to Haliburton Highlands Health Services; with 130km of County roads and 260km of Minden Hills roads impacted. There were wellness centres and wellness checks. The County picked up storm debris for a month.

The CAO noted the province launched the Municipal Ice Storm Assistance (MISA) program to help townships with the cost; which, in this case, is a 75 per cent, 25 per cent split between Ontario and the County.

Dyke said, "based on the MISA formula, the County is eligible for the recovery of $193,610 or 75 per cent, of the expenses incurred as a result of the ice storm. It is noted that the County also received a recovery grant in the amount of $10,000 from Hydro One. However, it will have to fund the remaining $143,349 itself.

Dyke said, "The County has submitted an expression of interest for submission of a MISA grant application. Subject to approval of County council, the formal MISA grant application will be submitted to the province ahead of the Oct. 31 program deadline."

Council gave him the green light.

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MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• *Of Light and Life*, a new exhibit by world renowned artist Michael Dumas, is on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until September 13. The exhibit features over 70 original works, spanning the last 70 years. Michael will be on-site in the Gallery on September 6 and 13 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm to present an Artist Talk, and sign copies of his recently published book *Algonquin Legacy - The Art of Michael Dumas*. The Artist Talk will begin at 1:30 pm. *Algonquin Legacy* is available for sale in the Gallery.

• The exhibit Haycock: *One Family's Canvas of Canada*, tells the story of how a chance meeting in 1927 between Maurice Haycock and A.Y. Jackson in Canada's Arctic led to nearly 100 years of painting for Maurice, his daughter's Kathy and Karole, and his granddaughter Erika. Join us for the opening reception on Saturday, September 20 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. The exhibit will be on display until November 15.

• The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village and Nature's Place are open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm until October 11. Daily drop-in programs are offered Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 11 am.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

• September 11 – Regular Council Meeting
• September 16 – Special Council Meeting
• September 25 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently recruiting for the following vacancies:

• Building Inspector/Bylaw Officer
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• Community Services Operator (casual)

Visit www.mindenhills.ca/careers for more information and how to apply

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS

Our next Household Hazardous Waste event is Saturday September 20 — and it's the final event in Minden for 2025. There are still five more events in Haliburton County for 2025. Minden Hills residents can attend any of these Household Hazardous Waste events.

For dates and locations, visit mindenhills.ca/hazardouswaste.

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Take Notice there will be a Special Meeting of Council held Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 9:00 AM in the Minden Hills Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, ON.

The purpose of the Special meeting is to provide an additional Council meeting that is dedicated to a series of applications for the Planning Department.

Further details to follow.

DROP IN THIS FALL

The 2025 fall drop-in schedule at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena is now in session and available online at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation. Take a look and join us for Public Skating, Pickleball, and more!

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The County owns 11 and 12 Newcastle St. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

County okays $2.5M on two buildings

By Lisa Gervais

Following months of debate, a majority of County councillors, on Aug. 27, voted in favour of spending $2.5 million to redevelop headquarters at 11 Newcastle St. in Minden, as well as do extensive work on the former Land Registry Office the County owns across the street at 12 Newcastle St.

In previous reports, director of public works Sylvin Cloutier had estimated it would cost $1.145 million for the current County office building, with $600,000 being for accessibility upgrades under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2025 (AODA). He has said 12 Newcastle St. would require $1.3 million, including moving the existing council chambers at 11 Newcastle St. across the road, exterior work, a lift, and AODA compliance.

At recent council meetings, councillors Murray Fearrey and Walt McKechnie, in particular, balked at the spend. They wanted staff to look at other options, such as expanding the current office building at 11 Newcastle St. and selling the former Land Registry Office.

In a report to last Wednesday's meeting, Cloutier reported back on the possibility of an addition to 11 Newcastle St. and a valuation opinion on 12 Newcastle St.

He said they could add a 2,600-sq-ft two-story addition of 14 by 8.65-metres in the existing loading and parking area out back. He said it could have more meeting and office space, but no council chambers. He added they'd need a geotechnical study, and planning applications.

He said the addition would cost $2,489,737.28, and does not include a possible special foundation, at $200,000, furnishings of $50,000, and AODA of $600,000 for the rest of the building – for a possible total project cost of $3,139,737.28

Meanwhile, he said they got an opinion of $375,000 to $425,000 for the former Land Registry Office.

Staff asked council to approve their original ask from May 28.

It includes AODA compliance, converting council chambers and top floor kitchen to office space, washrooms, basement kitchen, storage and meeting rooms. At 12 Newcastle, there'd be AODA work, a new roof, new council chambers, washrooms, meeting room, kitchen, lobby area and entrance.

Deputy warden Liz Danielsen said council had, "gone through a lot of different considerations and looked at different options" and she was "still absolutely set on the staff recommendation that we proceed with what was proposed to us earlier on in the year, with the council chambers moving to 12 Newcastle St. and the improvements made to this building. I'm good to go with what was originally proposed."

Coun. Bob Carter did not have an issue doing work at 11 Newcastle St, but said, "I do have a problem with across the street." He said County council could use Minden Hills' council chambers. He thought the former Land Registry Office could be sold to somebody.

Fearrey didn't like the spend, "when people can't even buy enough groceries." He also thought they should wait for the results of the service delivery review. He disliked the suggestion to borrow money for the work. "We're falling in the same rut the provincial and federal governments are in."

McKechnie echoed Fearrey, saying it was "a lot of money at these times."

But CAO Gary Dyke said "we've done the best we can, with the option the most fiscally responsible one we have."

Coun. Jennifer Dailloux asked about sharing Minden Hills' council chambers. Dyke questioned if it would be sustainable. Danielsen said she'd prefer the County have its own chambers.

In a recorded vote, Danielsen, Lisa Schell, Dailloux, Carter and warden Dave Burton voted in favour, with Fearrey, McKechnie and Cecil Ryall against.

Treasurer Andrea Robinson said they would have to borrow just over $2 million for the project.

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Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Amy Joanu, fourth from right, is moving her Beauty Basics spa to a new location on Bobcaygeon Road. *Submitted.*

New spa anything but basic

By Mike Baker

Beauty Basics' Amy Joanu has always embraced sudden change and chaos – so when an opportunity unexpectedly presented itself to become a storefront owner, rather than a renter, she didn't have to think twice.

The downtown Minden spa is moving up the street, from 101 Bobcaygeon Rd. to 51 Bobcaygeon Rd. The transition happened Sept. 1 and is the latest in a long line of improvements Joanu has ushered in since launching her business in 2016.

Back then, she was a new mom struggling to come to terms with leaving her baby to return to work. She had two jobs – a server at Pepper Mill Steak and Pasta House and a beautician at a Minden spa. She wasn't getting much fulfillment from either, so took a leap of faith, branching out on her own.

Joanu converted a room in her basement into a mini spa, bringing in a chair and offering a variety of beauty services. The start-up exploded, with Joanu adding two new team members within a year. By late 2019, and only after adding three additional working spaces, a bathroom, waiting room and playroom for children, she realized she'd outgrown the space.

Beauty Basics first moved to 136 Bobcaygeon Rd. in January 2020, setting up in the space vacated by Ommmh Beauty Boutique. A month later, the COVID-19 pandemic hit and Joanu said the next two years was "a constant back-and-forth of being open and closed."

Once the world got back to normal, demand for Joanu's services spiked again. She hired three more staff and ran into a familiar theme – not enough space. So, after noticing former tenant Northern High had left its spot beside the Village Green, Joanu made some inquiries. Within a few weeks, she was moving.

She signed a two-year lease in May 2023. Over the past two-and-a-bit years, she's expanded Beauty Basics even more, now boasting nine staff and renting out space to two others.

Asked about the services provided, Joanu said they do pretty much everything in the beauty and wellness sector – manicures and pedicures, waxing, teeth whitening, ear piercing, tanning, hair, massages, eyebrows, eyelashes, botox and more.

Speaking proudly, the entrepreneur said her business has always doubled as a bit of a playpen for kids, somewhere County moms can go to feel like they belong. Finding somewhere like that was a problem for Joanu after having her first child, she said.

"I could never go anywhere in town to get anything done because I felt like I was disturbing people. Nobody wanted you to bring your kid… so my place kind of has become that for people," she said.

While space was, again, getting tight at 101 Bobcaygeon Rd., Joanu said the set-up at no. 51 will allow her to cultivate a dedicated spot for kids – just like she had back at home. While not much bigger, the building has seven large rooms, meaning staff won't feel like they're on top of one another.

She's invested in some new mani-pedi chairs to give the location a fresh feel. Importantly, Joanu said she now feels like she has a proper home base where her business can continue to grow.

"There was never really a set plan to buy my own building – I don't really work that way. I'm a fly by the seat of my pants type of girl; I love change and love to evolve, this spot gave me the perfect place to do both," she said.

G.J. Burtch up for major Ontario award

By Lisa Gervais

Haliburton County's G.J. Burtch Construction Enterprises is up for the Ontario Home Builder Association's (OHBA) small volume builder of the year award again this year.

The OHBA announced its finalists last week. The awards will be handed out Sept. 30, during their annual conference in the Blue Mountains

"I'm super excited," said owner Andrew Burtch. He added, "we won that category last year, too, which was kind of our introduction to this whole awards thing."

The business is also a finalist for renovation of the year under $250,000.

Asked about their submission for builder of the year, Burtch said. "it's a culmination of a lot of things." He said it included charity work and community sponsorships. He added all they do with the Haliburton County Home Builders Association also contributes.

"Quality and finish are all part of it too, and even customer service. You have to exhibit and show that you have exceptional customer service. We're a Tarion builder and a licensed RenoMark builder. We're always re-certifying, relearning, and sending guys to school and offering apprentice opportunities and developing new builders."

He added, "we're excited just to be even considered a finalist in Ontario for this. Small volume is 1-100 homes a year, so there are many businesses that could potentially be in that category."

He, along with his wife, dad Gary, and Aggie Tose will attend the conference later this month.

Andrew is the eastern regional director for the OHBA, so said it would be a busy four days. However, "this is what I look forward to all year long. I love going."

Last year, the company celebrated 40 years of business in the Highlands.

Another member of the HCHBA, Stratton Homes Limited, is a finalist in the architectural design category.

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Samina Khokhar and Bronwin Ironside at their new Haliburton tattoo studio.
Photo by Lisa Gervais.

Wind blows tattoo artists into Hali

By Lisa Gervais

While Bronwin Ironside and Samina Khokhar were introduced to tattooing in very different ways, the universe aligned to bring the two to Haliburton, where they recently relocated B. Ironside Art and Latitude Tattoo from Minden.

Khokhar had dropped out of university in 2008. She had been studying cultural anthropology, but "could not handle the weight of how awful humans are to each other."

She travelled to Thailand, pondering what would make her happy. She knew the answer was art. She researched tattoo lessons.

"I thought it was a really interesting thing."

She said she had the privilege of learning under a renowned and award-winning female artist named Kanthima.

She was immersed for a month, even attending a convention in Bangkok, where she met artists from all over the world. She came back to Canada and did an apprenticeship in Toronto to hone her craft.

Meanwhile, Ironside was 18, a musician, playing in a lot of bands when she first got into tattoos. She said two of her bass players worked in a tattoo studio.

"Punk rock and rock and roll go hand-in-hand with tattoos and so I was introduced to a tattoo shop that way. And I've always been an artist." She, too, did an apprenticeship and has not looked back.

The two worked together in Bancroft, where they discovered they had similar senses of humour and could communicate really well. They say they help each other grow.

Ironside quips, "I think the universe directed us that way." Khokhar adds, there's no reason why she should have ended up in Bancroft. "I feel like the wind just kind of blew me here."

It blew them to a studio on the main street in Minden in 2022 – and has now taken them, as of June 27, to Maple Avenue in Haliburton.

Asked about the new location, Khokhar says, "it's wonderful. We really love Minden as well. It just came time for us to expand because we needed more space for our future plans and endeavours. It was never anything to do with Minden itself, it was just time for us to expand."

Clients from Minden are finding their way to the new shop, as are regulars from places such as Barry's Bay, Bancroft, Lindsay and Peterborough, even Newfoundland and the Greater Toronto Area.

Ironside said of repeat customers, "once you build a relationship with someone, especially with what we do, it's very intimate."

Khokhar added most clients want the same tattoo artist when it comes to continuation of art work. Sometimes people just respect their work.

The two operate as sole proprietors out of the space. As for their style, Khokhar said one of hers is watercolour. "I enjoy working with colours, so, so, so, so, much."

Ironside said she likes to do animal portraits, and "I love to work in colour. I love tattooing, full stop, period. I am happy to do whatever comes through the door. The only things I won't tattoo are racist, homophobic or bigoted."

Asked for the most meaningful work they've done, Ironside said, "if it's important enough for you to be putting it on your body, it is important enough for me to treat it with respect. A tiny little dot could mean just as much as doing a half sleeve."

However, she and Khokhar said memorial tattoos can bring pressure. Ironside said "it's a very tactile grieving."

Ironside talks about a client in her 90s who came for her first tattoo. She said the woman had been reflecting on her life, always having other people dictate what she could do with her body. "She wanted to close her chapter with one … and to experience it."

Ironside also specializes in covering up tattoos, saying people change. And Khokhar adds a bad tattoo can cause anxiety.

When not tattooing, the two said they spend a lot of free time drawing.

They've seen a lot in a nearly 40-year combined career; noting more women are now tattooists and tattoos more socially acceptable.

Ironside said they are "grateful for the warm welcome that Haliburton has given us."

B Ironside Art is at 83 Maple Ave.

REVEAL
PART 2
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Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Sharing is caring

By Lisa Gervais

I've been following a debate at County council about what to do with the aged buildings the County owns at 11 and 12 Newcastle streets in Minden – a stone's thrown from the Township of Minden Hills' buildings.

Do they need work to meet the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) 2025? Indeed they do. It's been estimated it could cost $600,000 just to bring the current administration offices up to compliance.

If you've been in that concrete bunker, dropping breadcrumbs on your way to the council chambers upstairs, you know it is a building that was constructed for a different time.

It needs refurbished main entrance stairs and ramps, including handrails; new front doors with automatic door openers; clear accessible paths throughout the building; new level hardware for internal doors; a universal washroom; new accessible service counter and accessible seating in public waiting areas.

Further, the plan is to convert council chambers and the top floor kitchen into much-needed office space, washrooms, basement kitchen, storage and meeting rooms.

They also have to make sure it conforms with building and fire codes; they need a second floor HVAC, lighting retrofits, and plumbing. The fire alarms need updating, emergency exits, lighting and security, and IT enhancements are on the wish list.

That part of the project is needed – at $1,145,135. As a taxpayer, I'm okay with the spend.

However, I'm not convinced the County has to do the second part of the project at the former Land Registry Office across the street – to the tune of another $1,290,020.

This old building would also need to be AODA compliant, with a lot of work, including a lift. It needs a new roof. The plan is to move council chambers over there, with washrooms, meeting rooms, kitchen, lobby area and entrance. It also needs mechanical, electrical and safety enhancements.

Let's start with a new council chamber. It was brought up that the County and Minden Hills could share Minden Hills meeting space that stone's throw away. Staffers estimated in a report that it could cost the County $50,000 to help Minden Hills refurbish its space and moving. Nowhere in the report does it say where that $50,000 figure came from. Nothing has been negotiated. Perhaps Minden Hills would lease the space for $1? Maybe they wouldn't. But the negotiating never really started. Instead, the idea was largely dismissed.

And what about meeting rooms? It was mentioned that the public could rent out meeting rooms at 12 Newcastle St. Is that absolutely necessary? There are meeting spaces elsewhere in Minden Hills, such as the community centre. As for entrances and lobbies, folks can access Minden Hills council chambers pretty easily. Then there's the parking issue. There isn't much in front of the Land Registry Office.

We're also in the midst of a service delivery review. Is now the time to plan for new office space – especially with a $2.5 million price tag? Wouldn't it be prudent to wait to see what staffing implications there could be in future, after the review?

And, coun. Murray Fearrey is not wrong in saying local government is now on a slippery slope, getting in the habit of borrowing money for major projects.

Perhaps in these unsteady fiscal times, the County could put out a tender for the first part of its project – work on 11 Newcastle St. - and see what that achieves first. Of course, this would require councillors to share a chamber down the road.

Councillors continually pay lip service to the need to work together better and find efficiencies. However, when opportunities present, they find reasons not to share. It's a shame. After all, sharing is caring for the taxpayers of Haliburton County

SAWDUST STORIES

This too shall pass

By Darren Lum

I'm not sure where I heard or read this, but … the best times, the worst times, they all pass, eventually.

Perhaps it was deeply set in my subconscious when I was wrestling with the Mikasa MTX60HD 4-cycle rammer for an hour (also known as a tamper), compacting backfill at a residence in Haliburton.

Imagine a motorized leg, set on a metal square plate, hopping up and down on loose soil. Weighing as much as my 140-pound muscularly lean frame, I struggled. Even with all of my weight against the tamper, or a "jumping jack" as my boss calls it, it barely moved. As it pounded in place, lowering itself several inches lower than the area I needed to move to, the effort to move it increased.

Sweat dripped down my nose, and sand sprayed in my face from the pounded dirt as the machine exerted 3,064 pounds per feet of power at 55.8-feet a minute. Pulling it back and finding higher ground, I managed to find my groove and maneuver the tamper forward.

It was among the most difficult things I've ever done. I was ready to quit, but my mother didn't raise a quitter. (Pssst … don't tell my boss I thought of quitting.)

Let's step back a bit.

I had just been asked to go to this site after working a few hours sorting through material and organizing what was going to the landfill and what would be repurposed at a lakefront cottage in Highlands East nearing completion. After a time, busy with my task, I didn't realize the storm the night before had knocked out hydro to the residence, leaving me and my colleagues with less immediate work to do since the laundry list of actions required electricity.

Before long, I was asked to go to another job site in Haliburton where backfill was for an addition build where an ICF foundation was completed.

Shown the tamper, which came up to my chest, I said, "I'll give it a try." However, in my mind, I thought this will be interesting.

I think my doubts were written across my face because my colleague, Ivan, gave some encouragement after his instruction. He told me to lean into the machine and make sure the throttle is on full power. Use the momentum, he added. I did what I could, but any delay on my part to move the machine left me with a struggle. Eventually, I succeeded. Will this be one of those experiences that teaches me I am capable of more than I can imagine? Perhaps.

Since leaving journalism three years ago, I've learned to learn again and embraced discomfort. It gives birth to the fertile ground for growth.

So, here I am; fully embracing what I don't know and what I can do if I give myself the chance to succeed. When they say you can't teach an old dog new tricks, sometimes old dogs need to reach down deep and find the strength. I always have a choice to pick the pain of discipline or the pain of regret. When regret comes from inaction, I will choose action with the potential of success every time.

Editorial opinion

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Steve Sherwood captured a couple of loons sharing a romantic lake-side meal.

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

Kunerts made right decision

by Susan Tromanhauser

Some people think Randy and Connie Kunert made a bad decision. They both left jobs of almost 30 years - as a fitter welder and car parts maker - respectively. They were well paying, stable positions with six weeks paid vacation.

The couple now work more hours a week with no vacation time. But the Kunerts know they made the right choice. They moved to Haliburton County.

Introduced to the Highlands through a jeep club, the Kunerts initially came to the area for off-roading. They were so enamoured, they purchased a five-acre lot with dreams of retiring to the property one day. That day came sooner than expected. In 2022, the passing of Randy's mother and the realization "life passes too quickly" coincided with the opportunity to cash in on the equity of their Cambridge home. They made the move to Buckslide Road, nestled in between Lakes Kushog and Boshkung.

Still in need of income, the couple started Kushog Cottage Firewood Services, cutting, splitting and delivering firewood. Connie also does "turn arounds" for six area cottages while Randy works weekends at the Haliburton arena. They both love outdoor work and running their own business, being able to decide who they work with and when. Randy assures, "if you like what you do, the work is less taxing."

The couple were meant to be together. While describing their new home in Algonquin Highlands, they complete each other's sentences. Together, they alternate phrases, saying they "know more neighbours (in Haliburton) than in Cambridge. Here everybody waves. They are much nicer here. In town, everybody knows your name."

The Kunerts started their relationship at a very young age. There is a picture of four-year-old Randy peering into a crib where newborn Connie lays sleeping. As kids, Randy played with Connie's older brother with tomboy Connie annoyingly tagging along behind. At the age of 19, Randy was asked by Connie's father to "get Connie out of the house and take her on a date" And he did.

The first date ultimately led to marriage. In 1994, immediately after saying "I do" on an Antiguan beach, Randy announced to friends and family he would return in 25 years to marry Connie all over again. And he did.

As much as the couple enjoys celebrating their love on Caribbean beaches, it is northern life they savour. When not running their business, the couple enjoys riding their side-by-side and kayaking on the many beautiful lakes of the Highlands. They take advantage of their own property, hiking backyard trails. Randy says it is "well worth living here all four seasons – except those two weeks of black flies." Connie agrees her new home is beautiful year-round but laughs when she mentions she is looking forward to cottagers going home, wanting "no line ups at Kawartha Dairy for my ice cream."

No matter the season, there is no doubt as long as the Kunerts are together, they made the right decision to move to the Highlands.

Randy and Connie Kunert

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Highlander people

New brewer has family ties at Boshkung

By Mike Baker

Working a routine 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. day job never much appealed to Ryan Prentice, the recently installed brewmaster at Boshkung Brewing.

Arriving at the Social, Boshkung's home on Water Street in downtown Minden, most mornings around 6 a.m., Prentice said he has a litany of tasks and duties he must complete at set times every day to ensure whatever is brewing on-site meets the high standards regulars have come to expect.

"I used to be one of them," Prentice said with a laugh, noting how he was a frequent visitor after discovering the pub in 2020. For years, he and his friends made it an annual tradition to celebrate the end of their fantasy hockey season with a few pints at Boshkung. "We fell in love with the environment that Boshkung has to offer, it became our usual hangout spot."

Back then, Prentice was training to become a carpenter. He went to school in the city. Wanting to earn a few extra bucks, he looked to pick up a bartending gig but he couldn't find anywhere in Toronto willing to take a chance on someone with no experience.

He vented to Boshkung owner, Mathew Renda, on one trip back home in 2023, Renda offered to take Prentice on as a server and bartender. He jumped at the chance.

For about a year, Prentice juggled his full-time gig as a carpenter and weekend shifts at Boshkung. In February 2024,

Ryan Prentice joined Boshkung Brewing as its chief beer maker. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Renda approached him about becoming head brewer. There was training involved, but that didn't deter Prentice – who was eager to follow in the footsteps of his uncle, Aaron Carter, who was Boshkung's beer maker in 2016 and 2017, when its HQ was in Carnarvon.

Prentice started an online program through the Skilled Trades College of Canada last October, wrapping in May. He completed his internship at Lake of Bays Brewing Co. in July.

He's been brewing at Boshkung since July 28 – his first batch was a tropical pale ale, which didn't see the light of day.

"It's quite normal for your first brew to end up going down the drain," Prentice said. "It's a very fine line, quality control wise, of what should be sold and what shouldn't. As far as tastes go, you don't want to put something out there that's going to turn people off."

Since then, he's finished a special brew for Boshkung's upcoming Oktoberfest festivities and is working on a pumpkin ale that will be released in the fall. In total, the craft brewery boasts over a dozen locally-made recipes.

Prentice said Boshkung has switched up the hops in its beers this year, going with a "more citrusy flavour." Batches are brewed in a 10-hectolitre tank capable of producing 1,000 litres of liquid gold.

After debuting crème brule and tiramisu flavoured "dessert" beverages over the past two festive seasons, Prentice said he and Renda are "tossing ideas around" for this year's Christmas feature, with a flavour to be announced shortly.

A self-described homebody with no plans to leave Minden, Prentice hopes to be with Boshkung for the long haul. His training will continue, with a beer-dinner pairing course on the radar.

"This is a dream position – as long as Matt's willing to have more, I'd probably enjoy working here. It's a nice feeling, at the end of the day, being able to sip on a cold one with your buddies knowing you're the one who made it," he said. "It's nice too, with the family connection, my uncle having worked here – it feels like I got to pick up where he left off."

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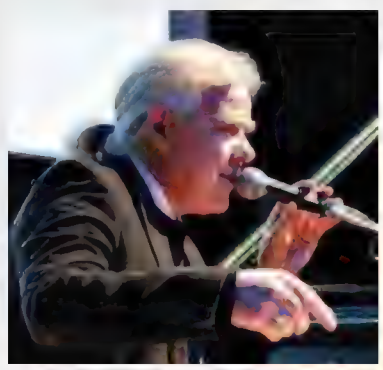

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Highlander people

Building bird boxes 'keeps him going'

By Lisa Gervais

Bruce Down hammers a nail into a Bluebird box in his South Lake workshop.

Asked why he hasn't driven it in fully, he explains it is used so people can open the bird feeder to clean it. Also, they might have to quickly go in to protect newborn chicks from blowflies, a parasitic threat to Bluebird nestlings. The larvae of the flies feed on the blood and body fluids of the young birds, potentially impacting their health and survival.

Down is a bird box and bat box builder – giving them away in exchange for donations to charities, including the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation for Hyland Crest long-term care home in Minden.

Selling at farmers markets, he estimated he had raised more than $8,000 for charity since Aug. 1 of last year. That's roughly 160 boxes.

"I'm very fortunate that 90 per cent of the material I've had donated," he said, taking a break from the woodworking and grabbing a camping chair for a chat on the day before his 90th birthday – which was Aug. 20.

He uses reclaimed barn boards, which are becoming scarce, for the bat boxes. He noted former Minden Hills coun. Ron Nesbitt recently gave him some barn board. Ken Barry has also donated to the bird box cause.

Down has always been into woodworking, a likely byproduct of being born and raised on a farm in the Oshawa area.

Bruce Down, 90, works in his woodshed on South Lake. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

The family bought the place on South Lake in 1974, for $9,700, and family and friends built the cottage using beams and barn boards from the family farm. He worked as an agricultural salesman, but the family spent weekends up north until moving up full-time around 15 years ago.

Down recalls dropping into a sawmill near Rosedale one day and the owner offering him slabs for free, since he was just going to burn them anyway.

"That's what started it, free slabs" he said of the boxes. "I just enjoy doing this kind of stuff."

It also sprang from loss.

He built boxes to raise money for the Terry Fox Foundation. "We lost our son, Phillip, 23 years ago to blood cancer." And, Down lost his wife, Joan, who had been at Hyland Crest, last year.

People can find Down in the artisan section of the Minden farmers market some Saturdays. He says he doesn't go every week. "I have to get ready. If I sell six, I have to make six." He said it takes him three to four hours to make a bird box, a bit less for the bat ones.

"This is my home…four or five hours a day, but I have to have my tea at 3 p.m."

At the market, he enjoys the people, and people watching.

"The odd guy will come along and sit there and talk to me for 15-20 minutes. Then he'll ask, 'what do you have here anyway'? before wishing me the best of luck and keeping on going.

"I had one guy at Wintergreen last fall who handed me $100, and never said anything, I said, 'I owe you a bird house' but he said 'no.' I asked for his name and address for a tax receipt. He said 'no'. I had made some walking sticks, and he took a $5 walking stick.

"It's the kind of thing that keeps me going, that drives me."

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Sept 3, 11 a.m.
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Sept 4 & 18, 10 a.m.
Painting Class

Sept 10, 2:30 p.m.
Qi Gong Lesson

Sept 11, 10 a.m.
Alzheimer Q & A

Sept 12, 10 a.m.
Tree Identification Hike

Sept 16, 10 a.m.
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Sept 25, 10 a.m.
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Hosted at Harcourt Community Centre

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For more info, visit www.haliburtoncounty.ca/SALC or pick up a full calendar at a participating SALC location, including a Legion or Library near you!

Highlander people

Durant returns to Minden with IIHF medal

By Mike Baker

Minden's Carey Durant pauses for a moment, smiles and looks down at the bronze medallion hanging around his neck, allowing himself to feel every emotion as he reflects on nine months of work advancing the Hong Kong China national hockey program.

From September 2024 to May, Durant served as the head coach of the men's and women's teams in the special administrative region of China, while also guiding youth squads at U18, U14, and U11. He returned home May 31.

After taking a year-long leave of absence from his civilian role with the Haliburton Highlands OPP, Durant said he's pleased to be back in the County. He didn't come home empty-handed, armed with a lifetime's worth of memories and a third-place medal from the International Ice Hockey Federation's (IIHF) Div. III World Championships, held in Mexico in April.

He also guided the men's team to its best-ever finish at the Asia Winter Games, held in Harbin, China in January, and coached the women at the IIHF Div. II World Championships in New Zealand.

This all coming two-and-a-bit years on from a Stage 4 prostate cancer diagnosis, Durant still pinches himself daily to make sure he wasn't daydreaming and that this did all happen.

"One day I'm cleaning a toilet or fixing a police car at the detachment in Minden, the next I'm shaking hands with [John Lee] the chief executive of Hong Kong, meeting guys like Bob Nicholson (former CEO of Hockey Canada], and Luc Tardif, the IIHF president," Durant told *The Highlander* in a recent interview.

"What an opportunity for me to go and experience something just absolutely incredible, coaching at the Asia Winter Games is just like being at the Olympics" he added. "Two years ago, I was on the brink. Next thing I'm coaching on the biggest stage in the world. Don't ever give up on your dreams, always bet on yourself."

What an honour

While it was a hectic start to life in Hong Kong – Durant had to formulate his own player pool, develop training programs, and establish team systems, he was proud of how much everything had progressed by the time he travelled to Harbin in early January. Right on the Russian-Chinese border, he said it's a hockey-loving area.

Carey Durant shares a moment with Hong Kong China captain Justin Cheng after claiming bronze at the 2025 IIHF World Championships Div. III in April. *Submitted.*

He was nervous walking into the rink for the first time, saying whenever he closes his eyes he can still make out the people staring at him from the crowd, the scoreboard, and the players whipping around the ice.

"Surreal – I still get goosebumps any time I talk or think about it," Durant said.

Hong Kong swept Group C, recording big wins over India, Macau and Turkmenistan. Despite taking a 5-2 lead over Kyrgyzstan in the qualifying round of playoffs, Hong Kong dropped a 6-5 decision in overtime – setting up what would be a humbling game against Kazakhstan.

"We lost 24-0 – they had a team full of professional players, signed to teams in the Kontinental Hockey League. We had a couple guys who played [college and junior] hockey, but they all have regular day jobs," Durant said. "To see a team that good up close, I don't care what the score was, every one of us learned something that day."

The team wrapped the tournament in eighth place – it's best-ever finish.

That gave Durant and his team the confidence to express themselves at the IIHF World Championships a couple months later. Despite dropping their first two games during round robin to Mexico and the People's Republic of Korea, the team rallied winning three straight against the Philippines, Singapore and Mongolia to earn bronze.

There was another "cool" accolade – in dressing 52-year-old goaltender Emerson Keung, Durant played a part in setting a world record for the oldest player to appear in an IIHF men's world championship game.

In the Div. II women's event, Durant guided an injury-riddled Hong Kong squad to a 1-4 record, beating Turkey but losing to Belgium, Ukraine, New Zealand and Australia. It was on that trip he met Tardif, spending two hours with the hockey executive.

"What an amazing human being – he gave me the history of him, how he bounced back [from not making it to the National Hockey League] to play in Europe, his involvement with the French Ice Hockey Federation and run with IIHF. He gave me some great advice as a coach and person," Durant said.

Keeping options open

While there was an offer to extend his stint with the Hong Kong program for five more years, Durant said he's committed to seeing out his time with the OPP – he has six years to go before retirement.

Not interested in taking on a junior coaching role, Durant has already resumed his scouting gig with the Ontario Hockey League's Guelph Storm. He's been working with up-and-coming names like Lachlan Whelan and Andrew Laurin, top prospects for the 2026 OHL draft.

He's not sure what doors will open in the future, but said he'll keep an open mind to opportunities that come his way – just like he did with Hong Kong.

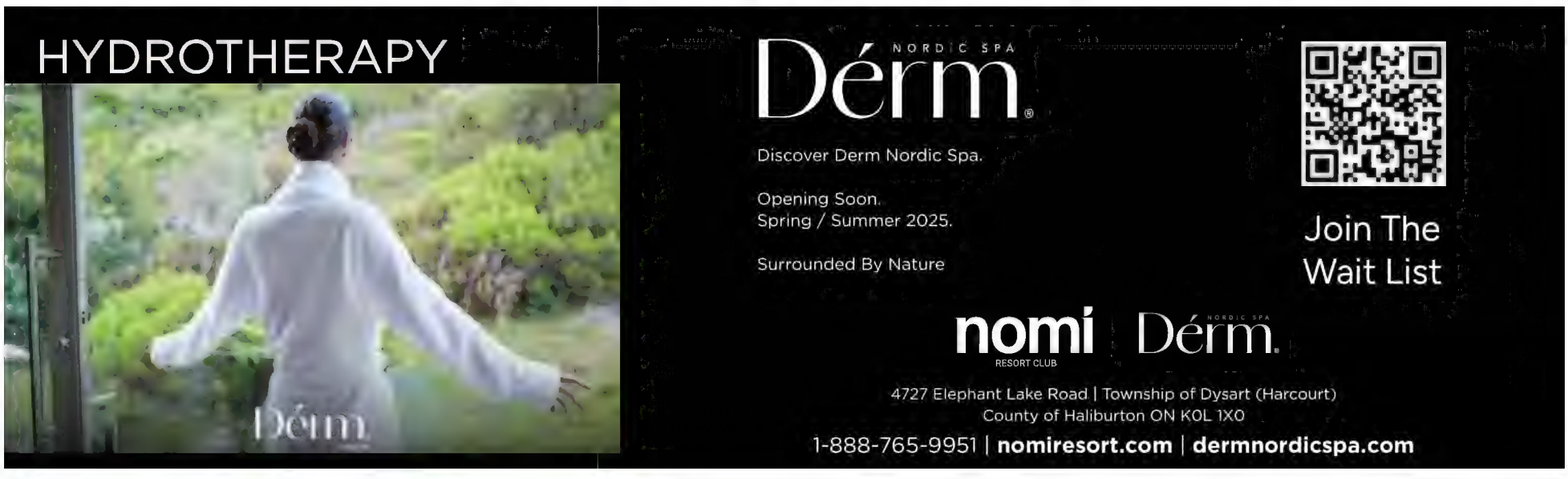
Reflecting on the impact he made over there, Durant said he hopes the changes he implemented will help the Hong Kong program progress up the ladder. The region will host the men's and women's Div. 3 IIHF World Championships next year.

"They're years behind places like Canada and the U.S. Hockey just isn't a focus there. Renting an hour of ice time is $1,500, it costs kids $20,000 a year to play," he said, adding there are no professional facilities. "The rink we used [for practice] is on the 10th floor of a shopping mall, there weren't any changing rooms. But they're developing… they're building their own rink for the world championships, which is a big deal.

"I think hockey is going to take off there… I'm happy and proud to have played my part. We really changed the culture of hockey in Hong Kong, we made players work for everything they got," he added. "I think the door will always be open for me to go back if I wanted, so never say never."

He thanked his wife, Lori, colleagues at the OPP Paul McDonald and Mike Cavanagh for encouraging him to live out a lifelong dream, and provincial police commissioner Thomas Carrique for approving it.

"I understand what it's like now winning the lottery," Durant beamed.



Highlander events

ADVERTORIAL

Shifting baselines: the legacy we leave

In the 19th century, passenger pigeons were so abundant they darkened the skies for hours as they flew overhead. Branches broke under the weight of their flocks.

Estimates count up to five billion of these birds in North America at the time.

But by the turn of the century, there was none left.

We had killed them all.

Today, such abundance seems fantastical. None of us has seen so many animals at any one time. Surely the passenger pigeon is a legend?

But it's far from that. Instead, what we have is an example of a shift in baselines. We collectively forget how much wildlife surrounded us, taking what we have now as normal. It's a dangerous phenomenon to those of us who care about biodiversity.

Last month, at the height of the heat, I stepped into the garden at Lucas House in Haliburton. The buzzing was louder than the passing cars. As I walked, clouds of insects took flight. I remember gasping; it was so remarkable.

But what if a few years ago, that abundance was normal and I was part of a culture that had forgotten? What if our baselines have shifted and we accept the silence of lawns as perfectly usual?

The scientific consensus says there's a mass extinction going on, with species disappearing up to 100 times faster than the background rate.

So you can imagine, our baselines will continue to shift as we get used to ever-fewer creatures sharing our planet, rather like the frog who doesn't realize his water is about to boil.

Many of us won't care, but for those of us who do, we're driven to ask: is this the legacy we want to leave our children and grandchildren?

Do we want mornings without birds or evenings without dragonflies to be normal?

Do we want to live in an impoverished world and not remember how rich it used to be?

Nature rushes back

It's easy to get gloomy about all this. I have moments when my heart is heavy.

By Simon Payn

But then I remember the past does not have to be the future, that nature is smart and strong, and that given the opportunity, it rushes back.

Our baselines can shift the other way.

I get ecological news sent directly to my email, and I often hear stories of a wasteland that becomes a thriving ecosystem.

Look at Toronto's former Port Lands, where the Don River is now flowing properly into the lake, surrounded by new coastal wetland and meadows. Native plant seeds that were buried under infill and industry 120 years ago germinated and grew again.

It can happen at your lake, too. A silent swath of grass can start to sing with life.

Lake Legacy Leaders

I've been delighted to meet many cottagers and residents who want to bring nature back, who want to plant natives rather than exotics, and who want to do their bit to keep this place alive.

I call these people Lake Legacy Leaders because they are at the forefront of reversing the damage, not just stopping things from getting worse but helping them get better.

These people are beacons on their lakes. They prove it's possible to share your cottage with nature and that having more butterflies and birds makes life at the cottage more interesting and fun.

And more importantly, they're creating a new legacy that will last long after they've left their cottage: an environment full of life; grandchildren who are used to an abundance of nature and expect absolutely nothing less.

Don't know where to start? I can maintain your existing property and over time introduce more life to it. Visit groundedgardens.ca to find out more.

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For more info and a free guide to natural gardens in Haliburton County, visit groundedgardens.ca

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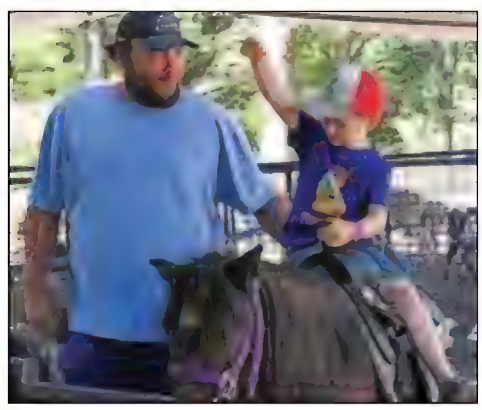

Three fun-filled days

The Kinmount Fair has been a family tradition for more than 150 years. Crowds again flocked to the fairgrounds this past Labour Day weekend for three fun-filled days, with agricultural and equestrian shows, the midway, live entertainment, motorsports, heritage exhibits and more. *(Lisa Gervais)*

Top: The midway rides were a hit. Second: Patrons enjoying the midway at the fair. Third left: Amanda Walker and CJ enjoying the foam at the pop-up foam party. Bottom left Colin Menzies pretending to be a cowboy while riding one of the ponies at the petting zoo. Bottom right: Natalie Smith fishing at the fish pond game as her father and brother look on. *Photos by Steven Sherwood.*

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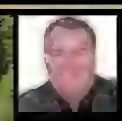

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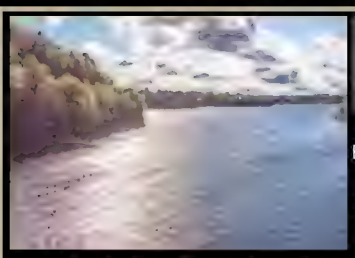

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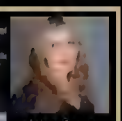

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- Heated Water Line, Lakeside Sunroom

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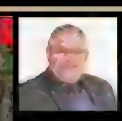

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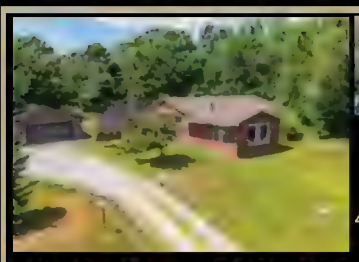

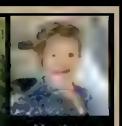

Kathy Martin* (705) 457-7592

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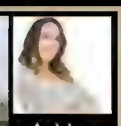

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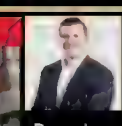

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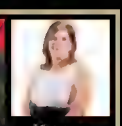

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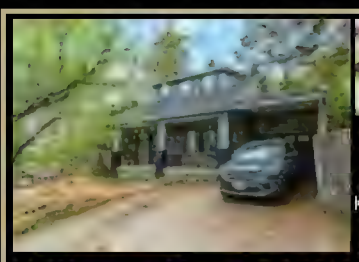

Kelly Kay* (705) 457-6841
Kirsten Rae* (705) 854-1454

Haliburton Home $499,000
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Darlene Reil* (705) 854-2055

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Christine Sharp* (416) 566-1592

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- Charming winterized log cabin home
- 8+ acres of private woods, cozy porch
- Close to Tory Hill & trails

Greg Stamp* (705) 455-2231

Wigamog Road $659,000
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Melanie Vigrass* (705) 754-5494

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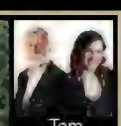

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Highlander events

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received applications to consider by-laws to stop up, close, and convey those parcels of land, being shoreline road allowances, more particularly described as follows:

1. **File No. PLSRA2024075:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Howland Lake, lying in front of 5373 County Road 121, located within Part Lot 14, Concession A, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
2. **File No. PLSRA2025016:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Mountain Lake, lying in front of 1058 Mountain View Road, located within Part Lot 7, Concession 8, Geographic Township of Minden
3. **File No. PLSRA2025047:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Twelve Mile Lake, lying in front of 1908 Twelve Mile Lake Road, located within Part Lot 9, Concession 11 & 12, Geographic Township of Minden
4. **File No. PLSRA2025066:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Salerno Lake, lying in front of 1155 Hancock Road, located within Part Lot 30, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Snowdon

The above noted applications are available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced applications, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than end of day on **October 3, 2025**.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned not later than October 3, 2025.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE if deemed advisable, By-laws giving effect to the proposed closures and conveyances will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider By-laws for the above referenced applications will be scheduled at a later date following the requiste commenting period.

Donna Sisson
Clerical Assistant, Building, By-Law and Planning
Township of Minden Hills
705-286-1260 Ext. 509
dsisson@mindenhills.ca

PLSRA2024075

PLSRA2025016

PLSRA2025047

PLSRA2025066

Hitting the open water

This past Labour Day weekend, the Minden Whitewater Preserve hosted an open canoe slalom event on the Gull River. While this is an annual event normally comprised of open boaters primarily from Ontario and Quebec, this year's race also played host to the American Canoe Association's Open Canoe Slalom Nationals. It's not unusual for Canadian open boaters to head to the U.S. for their nationals, and every once in a while, they all get together in Ontario for this event. It's a fun and friendly group of paddlers and while the event is definitely competitive, it's also encouraging to newer open boaters and has a lively spirit. *(Lisa Gervais)*

Top: Giles Chevrere and Arthur Ayers. Middle: Graeme Mitchell and Hazel Mitchell
Bottom: Dale Radin. *Photos by Stephen Sherwood.*

Highlander community

Raise your clubs

Abbey Gardens' seventh annual golf tournament – Aug. 25 at Blairhampton Golf Club - raised $75,000, according to spokesperson, Janis Parker. She said money raised goes towards Abbey Gardens' educational and environmental programming. *(Lisa Gervais)*

Top: Group 1 winners (women's team): Lynn Bartlett, Laraine Fargrave, Kathy Phillips. Absent: Dianne Whitmarsh. Middle: Group 2 winners (mixed team): Peter Henry, Lynda Henry, Scott Welch, and Janis Parker. Bottom: Group 3 winners (men's team): Mark Hamilton, Nick Kulas, Brad Park, Janis Parker (presenting gift bags), and Jeff Wilson. *Submitted.*

Highlander community

1075 Comak Street
$1,287,000

1314 Hunter Creek Road
$899,000

1026 Dewey Street
$559,000

2816 Gelert Road
$149,900

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A roaring good time at fun fair

The Haliburton & District Lions Club hosted their annual stories in the park fun fair Aug. 27. It's a free community event for children and families; to give every child a new book, and a fun fair in Head Lake Park. There were individual, low impact, non-competitive games, such as bean bag toss, mini putt, basketball toss, ladder toss and a fish pond. There were guessing games, photo boards, a story reading at the story tree, paint a story, and free hot dogs, popcorn and juice boxes. Featured children's authors, Carolyn Huizinga Mills read *Grandpa's Stars* and Adele LaMothe, *Two Little Raindrops*. Gord Kidd and Friends performed, there was face painting, and the Dysart et al fire department and Haliburton EMS showed kids their equipment. *(Lisa Gervais)*

Top: Paramedic Jen Button shows Hestein Evers how they check things such as heart rate at the Haliburton & District Lions Club Stories in the Park Aug. 27. Second: Annabella, Shania and Sienna Selbie check out one of the Dysart fire department's trucks. Third: Gord Kidd and Friends performed at the event in Head Lake Park las week. Bottom: The fishing pond was a popular spot. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

Highlander environment

Left: from left to right, Kara Mitchell, HMK Children's Water Festival coordinator, Shawna Gamblen, programming and outreach coordinator for the Haliburton County Public Library and author, Adele Lamothe. Right: Lamothe, Mitchell and volunteer Lauren Phillips at Lions Stories in the Park last Wednesday. *Submitted.*

Water storybook walk to make a splash

By Lisa Gervais

A nature-inspired children's book - and partnerships - were featured at Stories in the Park Fun Fair in Haliburton last week.

Author Adele Lamothe read her book, *Two Little Raindrops* – and, with Children's Water Festival partners – launched a 'water storybook walk' and donated a signed copy of the book to the Dysart branch of the Haliburton County Public Library.

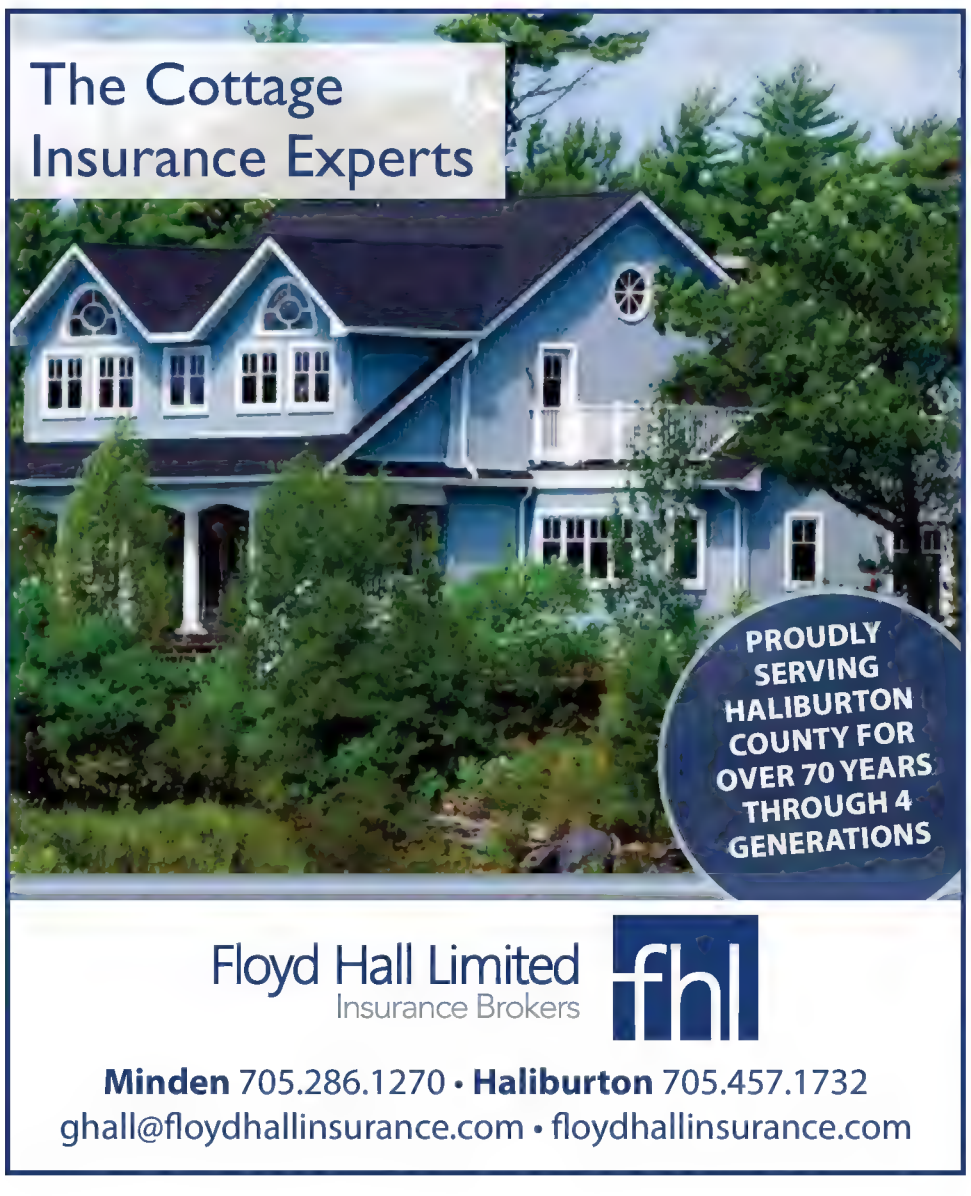
The Haliburton-Muskoka-Kawartha Children's Water Festival has been extending from their annual offering for schools into sharing fun water stewardship learning at community events, said coordinator Kara Mitchell.

She said, "this new water storybook walk is expected to make a splash" with younger, primary learners they are finding attend their community water hero engagements.

She said *Two Little Raindrops* introduces the water cycle through a rhyming story. Two raindrops are lost and miss their family. They start a journey to find their way back home and have a fun adventure along the way. The book includes a simple diagram of the water cycle and water conservation tips.

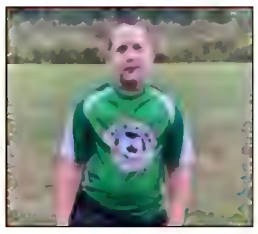
"Through my books, I want to entertain children while educating and inspiring them to appreciate this beautiful earth," Lamothe said. "I believe when children connect with books about nature, they learn to appreciate and respect our environment."

Mitchell said the water festival will share the walk with regional primary schools and families at future events. They are encouraging families to make a pledge to give back to life-giving water, and share their stories for potential prizes in their 'big splash contest.' See heroes.ca for more.



Home of Haliburton Grassroots

MVPS!



Caleb McElwain - Boys 10-13 - Grassroots Strikers

Everly Cox - Girls 10-11 - Navy Team

Hadley Ryckman & Georgette Stewart & Charlotte Houghton & Elsie Webb - Girls 7-9 - Kiwi Team

Ivy Fletcher & Ruby Russell - Gilrs 7-9 - Purple

Jack & Liam Ward - Boys 10-13 - Haliburton Crew United

Kinley Cox - Girls 11-13 - Green Team

Levi Kinghorn - Boys 7-9 - White Team

Logan Tetler & Edison Brown

End of a stellar season

Even though it was the final week of the soccer season, the enthusiasm and excitement of the players was not diminished in the slightest as the teams took to the field with more refined skill, greater endurance, and stronger perseverance than had been displayed in any of the earlier weeks.

Coaches, parents, and supporters on the sidelines all took notice of the much-improved level of gameplay that unfolded on the field as well as the noticeably better attitudes, sportsmanship, and camaraderie that continued both on and off the field.

The top moments of the summer were remembered with smiles, laughter, and celebration as the season reached its close, and the medals were proudly handed out to mark another truly stellar year of soccer in the community.

Players and parents alike expressed their thanks and gratitude to the dedicated volunteer coaches, recognizing all the long hours, energy, and commitment that had been poured into the program throughout the warm summer months.

Conversations and planning have already started about next summer's program, with even more anticipation building for what is to come. Looking forward to next year, the organization is aiming to expand enrollment with additional players and more teams, since each season the waiting list grows longer and the demand for outdoor sports and community engagement continues to rise in Haliburton. *(Submitted).*

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The Huskies

Jordan Bailey, a longtime Huskies assistant, has been named head coach for the 2025/26 season.
Photo courtesy of OJHL Images.

Fast, hard-hitting hockey

By Mike Baker

New bench boss Jordan Bailey says fans can expect the same brand of Huskies hockey this coming season, continuing the legacy and principles of longtime coach Ryan Ramsay.

After spending four years with the organization as an assistant coach – one in Whitby and three in the Highlands – Bailey told *The Highlander* he's "excited, proud and beyond honoured" to be leading the franchise into a new era. He was with the team for its first two seasons in Haliburton County, from 2021-2023, before moving to the Toronto Jr. Canadiens as an assistant for 2023-24. He returned to Haliburton last fall.

"This is one of the things we had talked about when I was coming back to Haliburton – if Ryan were to find another opportunity, would I be ready," Bailey said. "I didn't think it would be this soon, but I got the call over the summer and immediately felt this rush… this is an amazing opportunity."

This is Bailey's first stint as a head coach and comes after Ramsay took a skills and development coaching role with the Ontario Hockey League's Peterborough Petes. Ramsay will maintain a presence with the Huskies, staying on as the team's general manager.

Bailey will be backed up this coming season by assistants Owen Flood and Evan Foley. He'll take the lead with forwards and the powerplay, while delegating defensive and penalty kill duties to Flood and Foley.

"I don't see much changing as far as systems and how things are run. Ryan is still going to be a massive part of this organization. He, Owen and I have done everything together as a coaching stuff – we have a great relationship. Every decision is broken down, discussed and decided upon pretty equally, with everyone having a voice at the table. That won't change," Bailey said.

He sees Ramsay as a major hockey influence and mentor, saying a Jordan Bailey coached team will carry many of the same characteristics as recent Huskies squads.

"We're going to look to be a very fast, north, heavy team. I love the way we played last year. The fans want to see a team that competes night in and night out. Work ethic away from the puck is very important – if you're making a turnover, you'd better get that puck back, we tell people to finish their checks. It's about doing things the right way," Bailey said.

With players returning for training camp Aug. 21, he's had a couple of weeks to drill down on systems and make newcomers feel at home. The season kicks off Sept. 6 with a home tilt against the Cobourg Cougars.

There will be some familiar names in the lineup – goaltenders Stephen Toltl and Carter Nadon are back, so too defencemen Kaiden Thatcher, Curtis Allen and Oliver Tang and forwards Isaac Larmand, Daniel Vasic and Chase Del Colombo.

With most newcomers born in 2007 or 2008, so between 16 and 18 years old, Bailey said the Huskies will be one of the Ontario Junior Hockey League's youngest to start the season.

"That will give guys an opportunity to show their skills and figure out where they belong in junior hockey," he said.

Recruitment will ramp up again mid-to-late September, when OHL teams make their final cuts. Bailey said the team will be looking for players who can add size and grit to the team.

"We were one of the bigger and heavier teams last year and that really helped us through the regular season and especially in playoffs," he said. "We want guys with good motors and who are ready to come in every day and work."

After finishing last year in third in the East Conference, recording 40 wins in 56 games, and making it to the conference finals in playoffs, Bailey said he'd love to go one step further and bring an inaugural championship to Haliburton County.

"It's hard to put a finger on what exactly we need to do to win… we broke down last year a lot over the summer and, against Trenton, it was so close. We felt like a bounce here, a bounce there and it could have been a different series. At that level, it's all about focus, staying on task and taking opportunities when they come. We have to be dialled in at all times.

"We've seen the level we need to be at – a lot of our guys [have come back] hungry and raring to go, ready to have a great season," Bailey said.

What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed.
Tuesdays: Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Fun darts at 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, Remembrance Hall. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with a 7 p.m. start time, Remembrance Hall. There will be a $1,000 jackpot Aug. 6, Sept. 3, and Oct. 1. Snack bar available from 5:30 p.m. – French fries and hot dogs available while supplies last.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month.
Fridays: meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom. Beginning July 4, board games for seniors from 10 a.m. to noon.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed.
Upcoming events: Drum circle Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 16, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, with a 1 p.m. start time.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday to Thursday with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Monday: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29 Darts $5/player 7 p.m.
Tuesday: closed, special events only
Sept. 23 Veterans' Appreciation Dinner. Tickets are $20 each. Veterans and their spouse are free. Cocktails Start at 4:30 p.m. Dinner to follow.
Wednesday: open 2 to 10 p.m.
Sept. 10, 17, 24 Darts $4/player 2pm
Sept. 10, 17, 24 Quick supper menu changes weekly $10 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 10, 17, 24 Cribbage league 6:30 p.m. – sign up at the Legion
Thursday: open 2 to 10 p.m.
Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25 Horseshoes $5/player 7 p.m.
Sept. 11, 25 HHHS Social rec 10 a.m.
Friday: open 2 to 11 p.m.
Sept. 5, 19 Fish and chips, one piece/$15, two pieces/$20. From 5 to 8 p.m.
Sept. 12, 26 Community Care 55+ Lunch $17, at noon.
Sept. 12, 26 Wings and jam session $15/pound from 5 to 8 p.m.
Saturday: open 2 to 9 p.m.
Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27 Board Games 2 p.m.

EVENTS

SIRCH Community Services is looking for volunteers. In need of someone to work up to one day per week at the Thrift Warehouse in Haliburton – duties include sorting clothes, greeting customers, emptying carts and testing electronics. Also, someone to work two hours per week at Nathan's Rural Farm Project – duties include growing hydroponic produce and helping harvest greens. Stop by 49 Maple Ave. or call 705-457-1742 to ask for a volunteer package.

Sept. 4, 2 to 3 p.m. Craft your own soft, colorful autumn leaves in this relaxing needle felting workshop at the Dysart library in Haliburton village. Using simple techniques, you'll create textured leaves—perfect as decorations or thoughtful gifts. Materials will be provided. Registration required. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register. Also in Wilberforce Sept. 5 from 11 a.m. to noon, Minden Sept. 17 from 2 to 3 p.m, and Dorset Sept. 26 from 11 a.m. to noon.

Sept. 6, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Reveal Part 2 live in-house painting event at Corney Gallery. Watch four of our artists go head-to-head as they each create their own unique interpretation of a surprise image. Snacks and coffee will be served.

Sept. 6, 2 to 3 p.m. Join the Minden Hills branch of the Haliburton County Public Library for Canning 101, a beginner-friendly workshop all about preserving the fresh flavours of summer. In this hands-on session, we'll cover the basics of home canning—including water bath techniques, food safety, and storage—as well as explore other methods like freezing and drying. Registration required. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

Sept. 7, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. SIRCH Repair Café returns at a new location – the Minden Community Centre, located at 55 Parkside St. Visit our dedicated group of volunteers, who can fix everything from electronics and small appliances to textiles, ceramics, bikes, jewellery and more. For more information, call 705-457-1742 or email sirch.on.ca.

Sept. 10, 7 to 9 p.m. The Speaker Series welcomes David McPherson to the Haliburton Fish Hatchery, to share stories about the fascinating history of Toronto's iconic Massey Hall and The Legendary Horseshoe Tavern. Tickets are $15 per person.

Sept. 13, 10 a.m. Participate in a talk on 'the sustainable garden dilemma: are native plants the answer?' an n-person tour of Belinda Gallagher's garden near Tory Hill. Gallagher is the former head of horticulture at Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington/Hamilton. RSVP at environmenthaliburton705@gmail.com, or by calling 705-457-9239. Rain date is Sept. 14.

Sept. 13, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Join writer and screenwriter Hope Thompson for a creative and engaging workshop focused on the art and craft of the short story. Through group discussion and guided activities, participants will explore key elements such as character, structure, and narrative voice. You're encouraged to bring your work and questions. Held at the Dysart library.Registration required. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

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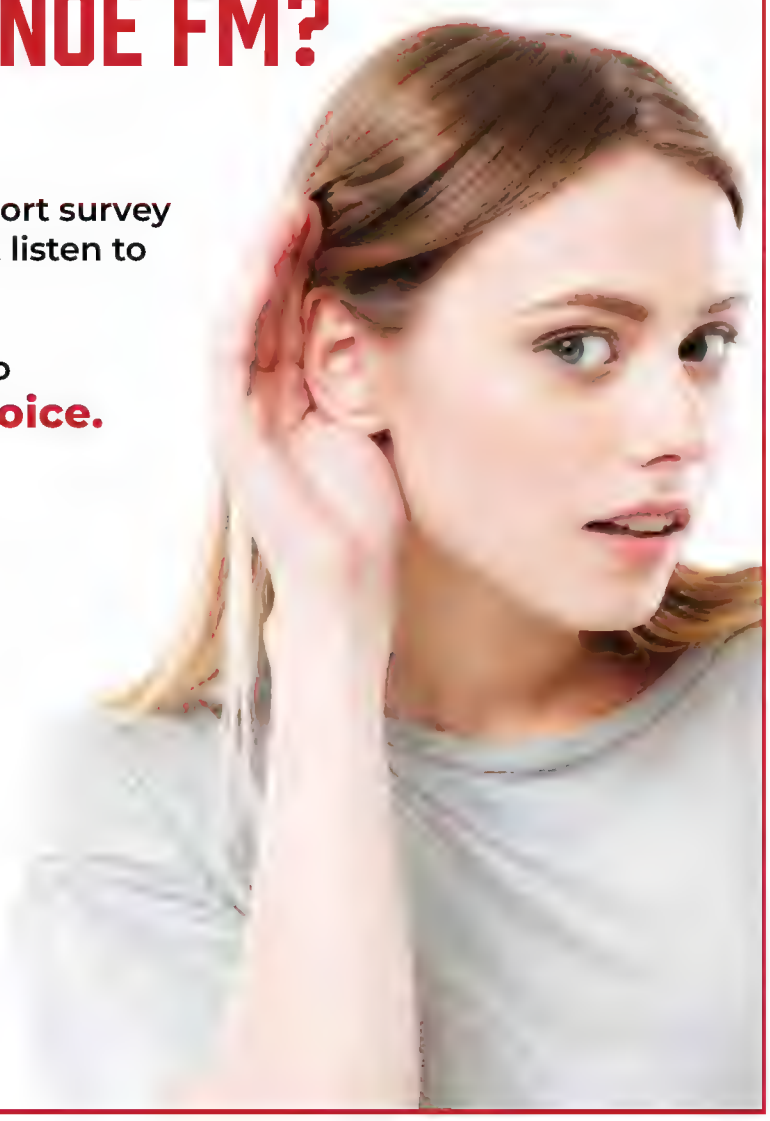

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What's on

Kael Reid is coming to Haliburton County Sept. 13. *Submitted.*

Concert proceeds for youth hub expansion

By Lisa Gervais

Spencer Zumpano moved to the Highlands in the fall of 2023, finding the Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub shortly after.

Now a peer mentor who sits on youth hub committees, Zumpano said, "I come here as often as I can. I even come early sometimes because I love it here. It is honestly my safe space.

Zumpano has noticed, though, that it gets loud in the common room shared by youth. Some kids might want to play Dungeons and Dragons but not so openly in front of other youth. Others might quietly want to do homework, but the quiet might be lacking.

"I think having more space would help with learning, like doing homework for example. There isn't a quiet space that kids can go to if they're overwhelmed and just need some time to cool off. It's one big area where everyone is and it can get overwhelming and loud," he said.

Point in Time executive director Marg Cox said the number of youth coming to the hub for skills and well-being activities, or to access other support and services, is growing exponentially "and our space is no longer meeting the needs of youth in our community. We need to expand."

Cox said the number of visits for services has grown from 440 in 2020-21 to 879 in 2024-25; the number of youth from 139 to 163, and number of visits for skills and wellbeing activities from 593 to 2,292.

Point in Time is presenting an evening with Kael Reid Sept. 13 in Haliburton, with proceeds going towards the expansion of the hub. Cox said it was "one step in many steps to come towards raising money for a youth hub expansion."

Reid is an assistant professor in children, childhood, and youth studies in the department of humanities, faculty of liberal arts and professional studies at York University in Toronto.

They will be giving a songwriting and sharing workshop to youth between noon to 2 p.m., before an evening concert.

Reid, described as a "queer folksinger and recording artist," last did programming in the Highlands in 2013.

"With the youth hub, I really think it's important for, especially marginalized youth, having places to go that are welcoming and safe and offer the kinds of programming they might not be getting in school or at home," they said.

The concert is Sept. 13, 7-9 p.m. at the Music Room at Castle, at 223 Highland St. Tickets are $25 in advance or $30 at the door. They can be purchased at point in Time, The Music Room at Castle, Foodland Haliburton, Glecoff's Haliburton, Agnew's General Store in Wilberforce and Molly's Bistro Bakery in Minden.

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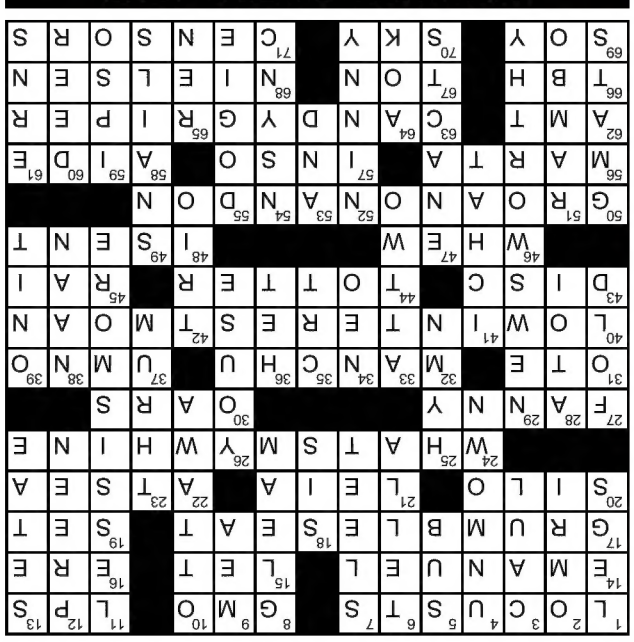

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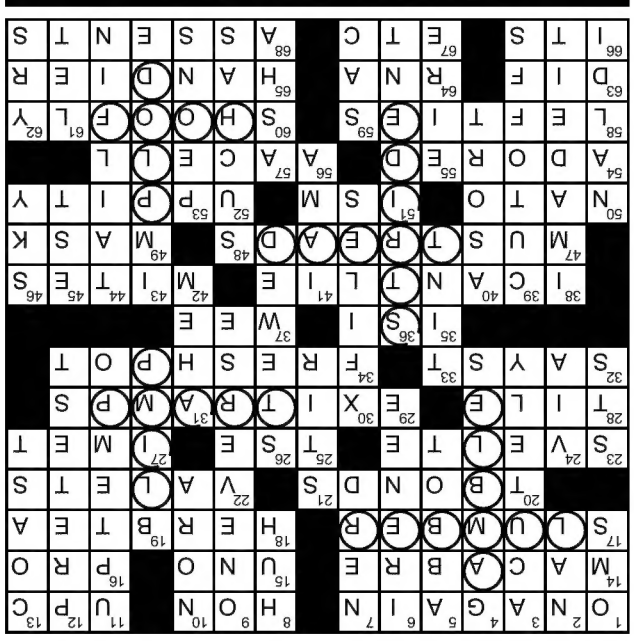

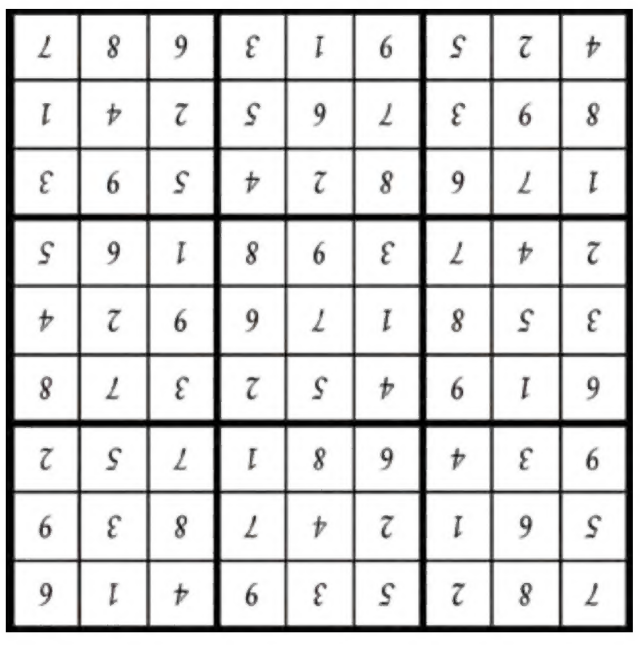

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2. Nathan's Rural Farm Project

2 hours per week - duties include: help grow hydroponic produce, help harvest greens.

Thrift Warehouse *in Haliburton is a social purpose thrift store managed by SIRCH Community Services.*
Nathan's Rural Farm Project *is an opportunity to increase fresh produce in the winter months through the use of 13 hydroponic towers at the SIRCH Bistro & Bakery.*
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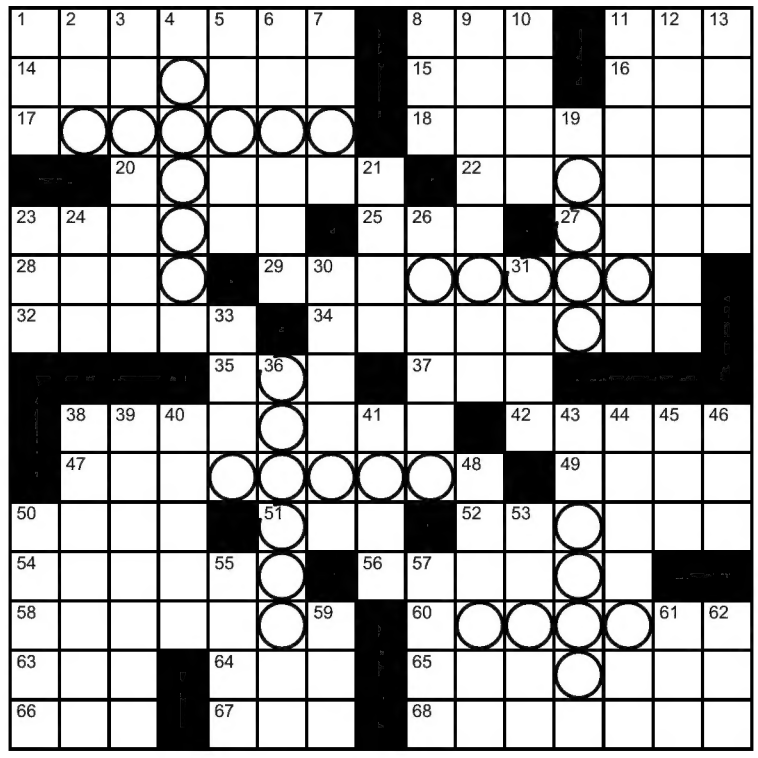

Across

1 Being reaired
8 Rt. ___ Prime Minister
11 Modern price tag
14 Grotesque, as King's "Danse"
15 The loneliest numero
16 Guru, so to speak
17 ___ party (group sleepover)
18 Soothing Stash product
20 U.S. gov't securities
22 They take tips on parking your car
23 Gracefully slender
25 Bay St. share trader, pre-2002
27 "Haven't ___ you before?"
28 Scrabble bag pick
29 Highway turnoffs
32 Utter, old-style
34 Just-brewed java
35 "Woe ___" (funny grammar book)
37 Like Willie Winkie of rhyme
38 Lead-up to a frank comment
42 Tiny parasites
47 Oprah's book picks, to some
49 Bit of surgical wear
50 Group that Finland joined, April/23
51 Religious ending, often
52 Having a better attitude?
54 Was gaga over
56 Some flashlight batteries
58 They don't pitch right
60 Molasses crumb pie
63 Same ___ (equal, in slang)
64 Virus material
65 Better at DIY projects, maybe
66 C'est, in English
67 "Dot dot dot" alternative
68 Agrees (to)

Down

1 Sounds made while cross-legged, maybe
2 Suffix with infer- or inter-
3 With keen perception
4 Takes chances
5 Monastery head
6 Chemist Éleuthère ___ DuPont
7 One wearing coke-bottle glasses and flood pants, maybe
8 "That's news to me"
9 Like a brief poem
10 Writer Roberts or Ephron
11 With a lively beat
12 Warmup exam
13 Either end of a cross-Canada trek
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21 Soup recipe instruction
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24 By way of
26 Beyond tipsy
30 Show about eerie cases, with "The"
31 Throaty attention-getter
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36 Harsh-sounding
38 Breathless cry on arriving late
39 Shorts that were pants
40 Of ___ (somewhat)
41 Simon's "___ Rock"
43 Collapse inward
44 Fish's "rudder"
45 Suffix better than -er
46 "Vanilla ___" (2001 Tom Cruise film)
48 "For example?"
50 Nita of silent movies
53 Servile staffers
55 The Emerald Isle, to poets
57 CBC journalist Tomlinson
59 Baie-Comeau bag
61 Permit
62 Eon's billion: Abbr.

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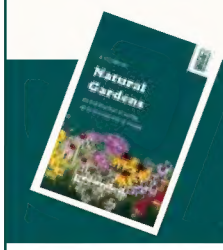

For a free guide to
natural gardens in
Haliburton County,
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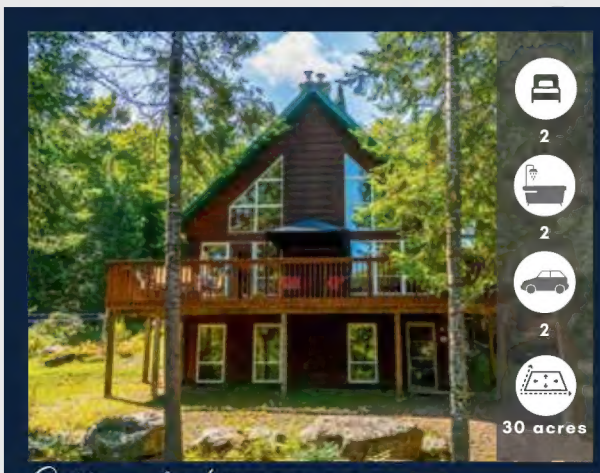
ELEVATING
HALIBURTON
REAL ESTATE

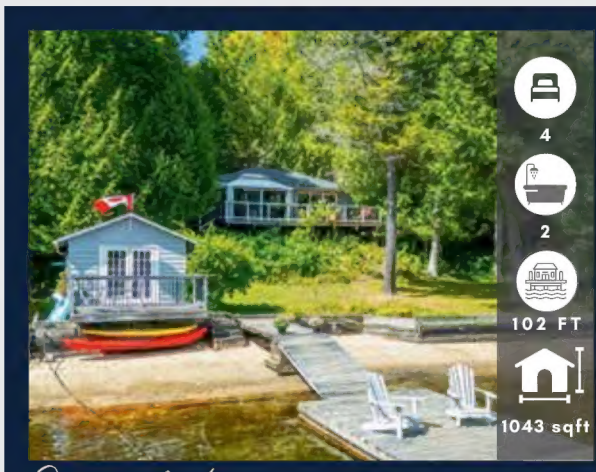
21



Offered at $799,000

1166 CARROLL ROAD, HALIBURTON

Chalet-style retreat on 30 private acres! Open concept, stone fireplace, chef's kitchen, loft, walkout rec room, drive-through garage, and trails. Minutes to Haliburton. Move-in ready—explore 1166 Carroll Road!



Offered at $700,000

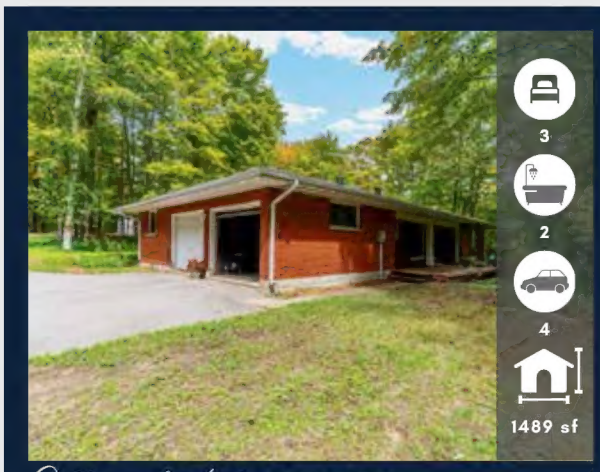
1291 SHANAHAN TRAIL, MINDEN

Turnkey cottage on Horseshoe Lake! Sandy beach, deep water off the dock, boathouse for lakeside entertaining, guest bunkie, and great lake views. Minutes to Minden. Move-in ready!

Offered at $575,000

1190 RITCHIE FALLS RD., MINDEN

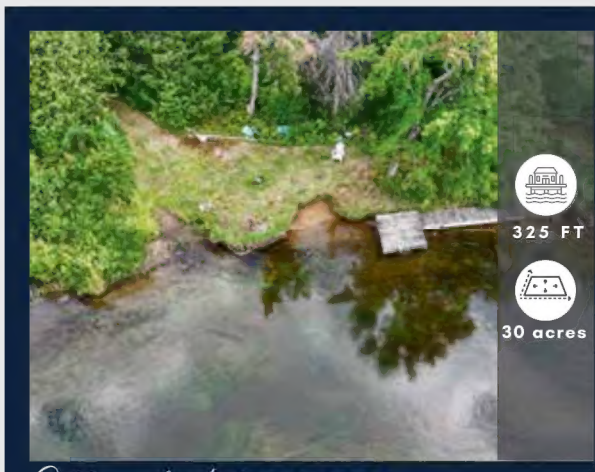
3-bedroom plus den, 3-bath bungalow with modern upgrades—new ensuite, finished basement, wet bar. Move-in ready comfort just 15 minutes to Haliburton or Minden, near trails and recreation.



Offered at $465,000

1204 WALKER LINE RD., ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS

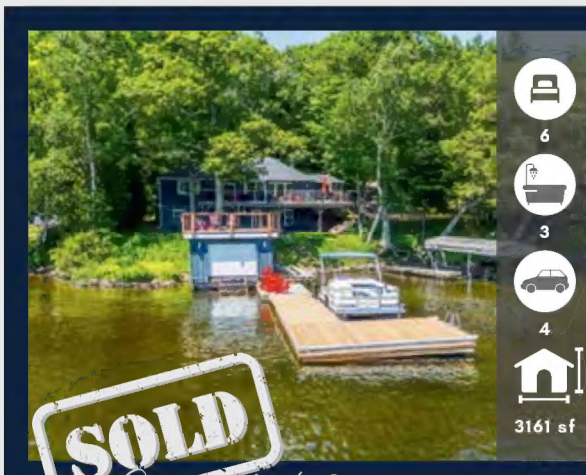
Custom brick bungalow on 1-acre treed lot! 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, double attached and detached garages. Steps to Kushog Lake access. Solid home with great potential —make it your own!



Offered at $325,000

BRAELOCH RD., KENNISIS RIVER

Build your dream home or cottage on 1.07 acres with 325' Kennisis River frontage, sandy shoreline, southwest sun, and boat access to Halls Lake. Cleared site, driveway in, hydro at the lot line —build now!



Offered at $1,995,000

LITTLE BOSHKUNG LAKE

Lakefront retreat on Little Boshkung! 3-bed main cottage plus guest cabin, triple garage, single garage, boathouse with rooftop deck. Sunny, private lot—enjoy boating, swimming, and year-round comfort!

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